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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:
PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND
PROGRESS IN FASHIONING A REGION
OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY
AND DEVELOPMENT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 5 August 1993 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter from His Excellency Ernesto Leal, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua (see annex), inviting you to appoint a mission to observe in situ the updating of the weapons inventories periodically carried out by the Nicaraguan army, an operation that the Nicaraguan Government sees as a further step in its policy of transparency in military affairs and as an additional confidence-building measure in the region. The mission could visit Nicaragua during the last week of August 1993.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 36, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Erich VILCHEZ ASHER
Minister Counsellor
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Letter dated 30 July 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua addressed to the Secretary-General

The Government of Nicaragua is deeply committed to the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America. With that in view, we consider that the progress achieved in democratization and regional pacification should give rise to a vigorous and comprehensive process to reduce armaments and military forces with a view to establishing a reasonable balance of forces in the region.

As far as Nicaragua is concerned, this is one of the fundamental aims of the domestic and foreign policy of President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. In this spirit, we have developed a series of domestic initiatives which have achieved substantial reductions in the army, as well as a decrease in armaments and the military budget.

With regard to foreign policy, we have promoted a series of initiatives within the framework of the Summit Meetings of the Central American Presidents and, in particular, through the Security Commission of the Central American countries, designed to restrict to a minimum the number of military and security forces and the quantity of weapons in the region.

Guided by its desire for peace, the Nicaraguan Government has on two occasions transmitted to you the inventory of military equipment, armaments and installations and the census of military and security forces personnel in the Republic of Nicaragua, in an effort to update periodically our military situation and cultivate a policy of complete transparency and commitment to the demilitarization of Central America. We have also transmitted to you a report on transfers of weapons.

As a further demonstration of the Nicaraguan Government's desire for peace, we wish to invite you to appoint a mission to observe in situ the updating of the weapons inventories periodically carried out by the Nicaraguan army, an operation intended as a further step in our policy of transparency in military affairs and as an additional confidence-building measure in the region. I am also requesting the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States to appoint a mission to participate jointly in this important task with the United Nations observers. The mission could visit Nicaragua during the last week of August 1993.

I should like to express once again our gratitude for your continuing efforts to achieve stability and peace in Central America.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Ernesto LEAL SANCHEZ
Minister